

Lieutenant Thomas Ewart Mitton

The Mitton family can trace their roots back to Albrighton, Shropshire, a village located 7.5 miles northwest of Wolverhampton. Here Humphrey Mitton was born to Thomas and Ann Mitton (née Howell).ⁱ Humphrey was baptised on 5th November 1767 most likely at the village church of St Mary Magdalene.ⁱⁱ

Humphrey became a 'whitesmith', someone who works with 'white' or light-coloured metals such as tin or pewter. Whitesmiths fabricated items such as tin or pewter cups, water pitchers, forks, spoons and candle holders, possibly also working in the clothing industry, making or finishing buckles, buttons and so on.ⁱⁱⁱ

On 23rd December 1793, Humphrey married Elizabeth Moss at St Mary's Church, Handsworth, then a hamlet in Staffordshire but their married life was spent in Dudley. The first five children, Benjamin (born 1796), Edward Moss (born 1800), Mary Ann (born 1802), Elizabeth (born 1805) and Thomas (born 1807) were all baptised at St Thomas' Church, Dudley. Two subsequent children Joseph (born 1812) and Hannah (born 1819) were registered at the Baptist Chapel in New Street, Dudley.^{iv}



Figure 1: St Mary's Church Handsworth c1798. The church has been dubbed 'The Westminster Abbey of the Industrial Revolution'.

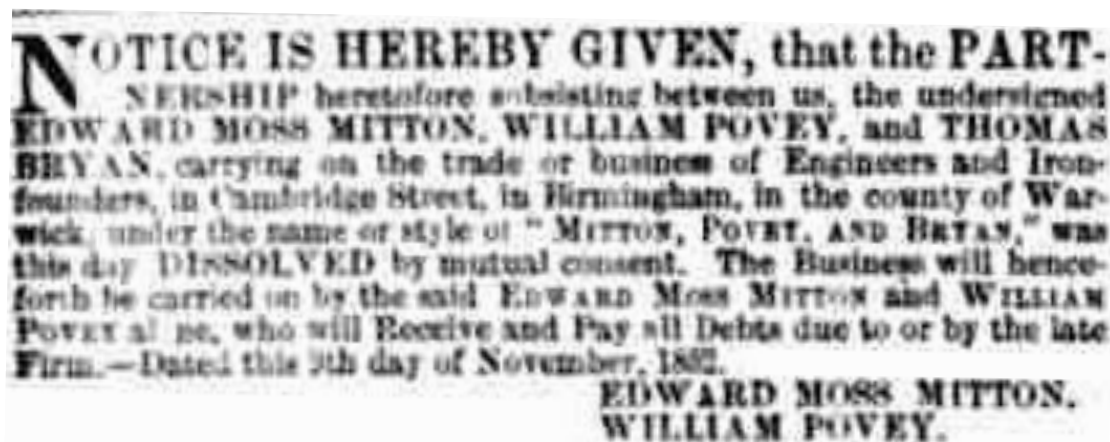
The 1841 census records Humphrey and Elizabeth as living with their youngest daughter, Hannah, at Freebodies, a settlement about half a mile from Dudley town centre, close to Kate's Hill.^v



Figure 2: Tower Street, Dudley

Edward Moss became a 'whitesmith' like his father. On 15th May 1820 he married Mary Evans at All Saints Church, West Bromwich. They had seven children. The eldest child, Benjamin Moss, was baptised at St Thomas's church, Dudley on 2nd September 1821, but his siblings Edward Moss (born 13th August 1823), twins William and Thomas (born 20th May 1825), Elizabeth (born 25th June 1826), Mary Ann (born 10th December 1828) and Hannah (born 7th October 1831) were registered at the Baptist Chapel in New Street, Dudley. The family lived in Tower Street, Dudley.^{vi}

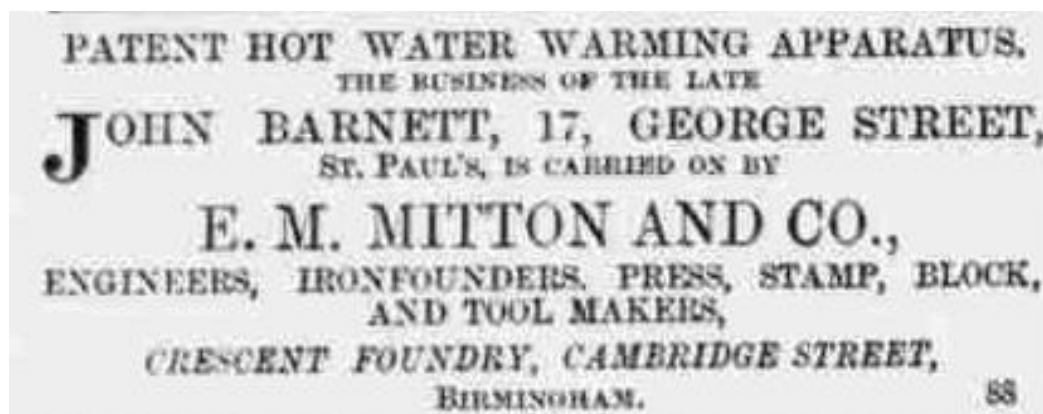
Edward Moss junior moved to Birmingham in 1846, where he met and married Sarah Gittins in early 1848.^{vii} In the 1851 census, Edward's occupation was described as an 'iron founder master employing 5 men'. At this time he was living with Sarah, her mother, Martha Knowles, and second husband in Castle Street, Dudley. Martha had been widowed not long after her daughter's birth on 17th February 1824^{viii} and had married a widower, Thomas Knowles, on 1st September 1827. Thomas was a shoemaker master employing five men and one woman.^{ix} Also living at the address were Edward and Sarah's children, Georgina Knowles born in early 1849 and Sarah Jane who was just two months old when the census was taken.



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the PART-
 NERSHIP heretofore subsisting between us, the undersigned
EDWARD MOSS MITTON, WILLIAM POVEY, and THOMAS
BRYAN, carrying on the trade or business of Engineers and Iron-
 founders, in Cambridge Street, in Birmingham, in the county of War-
 wick, under the name or style of "MITTON, POVEY, AND BRYAN," was
 this day **DISSOLVED** by mutual consent. The Business will hence-
 forth be carried on by the said **EDWARD MOSS MITTON and WILLIAM**
POVEY *ad hoc*, who will Receive and Pay all Debts due to or by the late
 Firm.—Dated this 9th day of November, 1852.
EDWARD MOSS MITTON,
WILLIAM POVEY.

Figure 3: Newspaper announcement of the retirement of Thomas Bryan from the Mitton, Povey and Bryan partnership in 1852

After Edward's move to Birmingham in 1846, he went into partnership with William Povey and Thomas Bryan, engineers and iron founders based at the Crescent Foundry, Cambridge Street, Ladywood, Birmingham. In November 1852 the company became just 'Mitton and Povey'.^x A year later, in 1853, the company was in the sole charge of Edward.^{xi}



PATENT HOT WATER WARMING APPARATUS,
 THE BUSINESS OF THE LATE
JOHN BARNETT, 17, GEORGE STREET,
 ST. PAUL'S, IS CARRIED ON BY
E. M. MITTON AND CO.,
 ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, PRESS, STAMP, BLOCK,
 AND TOOL MAKERS,
 CRESCENT FOUNDRY, CAMBRIDGE STREET,
 BIRMINGHAM. 88

Figure 4: Edward takes over the business of the late John Barnett around 1858

Around 1858, Edward took over the business of John Barnett. In 1854 John Barnett had registered a device called a 'bottle or flask furnace'. The highly efficient boiler was to be used in connection with the heating of churches and other buildings and for horticultural purposes by means of a large piping system.^{xii}

Meanwhile, at home, the family had moved to 18 King Alfred's Place, Ladywood, Birmingham with their five children. No 16 was Bingley Hall Tavern, later a hotel. Sarah Jane had died in 1853, aged two, but Georgina and four brothers, Edward Moss (born 1853), Thomas Evans (born 1855), Albert Edward (born 1858) and Walter Morgan (born 1860) are recorded on the 1861 census.

The 1871 census records the family still living in Ladywood. Another daughter, Jessie Beatrice, was born in 1867, bringing the number of surviving children in the family to six.



Figure 5: St Alfred's Place showing the houses adjacent to Bingley Hall Hotel

Edward's business prospered and by 1881 he was employing 22 men and two boys at his works. The family had moved into the leafy suburbs of Moseley and were living at 'Fernie Lea', Oakland Road.

By 1891 Edward and the family had moved to Trafalgar Road, also in Moseley, before finally settling at Ivyleigh in Oxford Road. Edward continued to live there after his retirement until his death in 1905, aged eighty-two.^{xiii}

His obituary describes him as:

... a well known and respected personality in Birmingham Life. He was one of the founders of the Birmingham Liberal Party and secretary of the Ladywood Ward for ten years. In 1876 he was personally asked by Mr Chamberlain to enter the then town council which he did and represented Ladywood and was on the committees for Markets and Fairs, Industrial Schools and Corporation Street Improvements. He also served for a term on the board of guardians. After the Home Rule split, Edward retired from politics and gave his time to church affairs. He was an enthusiastic Baptist and financial secretary of the West Midlands Baptist Association and president in 1886. He was connected with the erection of new churches in King's Heath, Sparkbrook and Spring Hill. He was the first to suggest the provision of shelters for cabmen and was a member of the City Mission. He left four sons and two daughters.^{xiv}



Figure 6: June 1893 advertisement for Hunt and Mitton

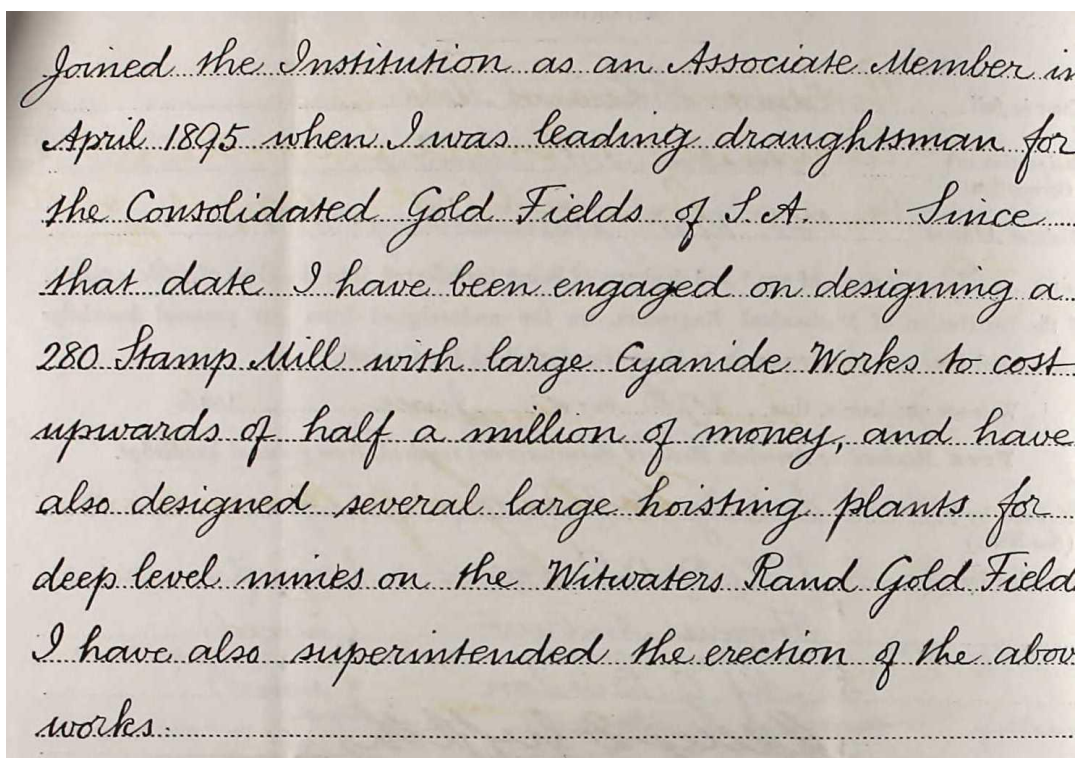
Edward's second son, Thomas Evans Mitton was educated at King Edward's School, New Street, Birmingham, and then at the Midland Institute of Technology. After serving a five-year apprenticeship in his father's works at the Crescent Foundry, Thomas entered into a partnership with James Hunt in 1874 and formed the firm Messrs Hunt and Mitton at the Crown Brass Works 13/19 Oozells Street North, Birmingham. Hunt & Mitton was a brass founders and engineering company producing hydraulic gauges, together with engine and boiler mountings. James and Thomas worked together for 15 years, before their partnership was dissolved on 1st July 1889. The company continued under the sole stewardship of Thomas. In 1892, the firm became the maker of Nettlefolds and Jones hydraulic valves and two years later Mitton's Centrifugal Automatic crank pin oiler.^{xv}

In the autumn of 1880 Thomas married Mabel Tolkien. Mabel was the aunt of the author J.R.R. Tolkien whose book '*The Lord of the Rings*' became one of the best-selling books of all time.

At the time of the 1881 census, the newly married couple were living in Augusta Road, Moseley. The brass foundry was prospering and Thomas was employing 15 men and five boys at the works in Oozells Street. Three children, Ethel Grace, Hilda Mary and Eric John were born in 1881, 1883 and 1888 respectively, but a son, Edward Lesley, born in the summer of 1890, died a few months later in 1891.

By 1891 Thomas, Mabel and their three children were living at 16 Church Road, Moseley next door to Mabel's mother Mary Jane Tolkien (née Stow) and Mary's two youngest sons, Wilfred and Lawrence, at No 15.

On 1st August 1896, Thomas applied to become a full member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. His application and curriculum vitae are shown below.

A photograph of a handwritten document, likely a curriculum vitae, written in cursive on lined paper. The text describes Thomas Tolkien's professional experience, mentioning his role as a draughtsman for the Consolidated Gold Fields of S.A. and his work on designing a stamp mill and hoisting plants for deep level mines on the Witwaters Rand Gold Field. The handwriting is clear and legible, with some ink bleed-through visible from the reverse side of the paper.

Joined the Institution as an Associate Member in April 1895 when I was leading draughtsman for the Consolidated Gold Fields of S.A. Since that date I have been engaged on designing a 280 Stamp Mill with large Cyanide Works to cost upwards of half a million of money, and have also designed several large hoisting plants for deep level mines on the Witwaters Rand Gold Field. I have also superintended the erection of the above works.

Figure 7: Thomas's curriculum vitae, 1896

Thomas and Mabel's next child, Kathleen Jessie, was born in the summer of 1893 but died in infancy the following year. Two further children, Thomas Ewart, known as Ewart, and Mabel Joyce, were born on 26th April 1897^{xvi} and in the summer of 1900 respectively.

By 1901 Thomas, Mabel and their five surviving children had moved to 'Carisbrooke' in Anderton Park Road, Moseley. Three domestic servants assisted Mabel in running the household. In 1905, Thomas and Mabel's youngest daughter, Mabel, died, aged five years old. The infant mortality rate in 1900 was 165 per 1,000. Diseases such as diphtheria, pertussis, measles and scarlet fever, carried off thousands of children but today are rarely seen, because of a government vaccination programme and the development of antibiotics.

There was one final move to 'Abbotsford', 69 Wake Green Road, Moseley by the time the 1911 census was taken.^{xvii} Here Ewart grew up with his brother, Eric and sisters, Ethel and Hilda. A frequent visitor was his cousin J. R. R. Tolkien.^{xviii}

Priscilla, J. R. R. Tolkien's daughter wrote^{xix}:

For our father the continuity of our connection with Aunt Mabel was deeply important, orphaned as he had been at the age of twelve. (His father, Arthur, died when he was four years old and his mother, Mabel (née Suffield), when he was twelve.) He had happy memories of being invited to Abbotsford as a school boy during his days at King Edward's School and of taking his school friend, Christopher Wiseman, there (after whom my brother Christopher was named), of their playing tenniquoit^{xx} on the lawn. Later, my mother, when they became engaged, was a regular visitor there. Aunt Mabel was very fond of her and at her death left her, her jewellery and household linen.

Priscilla goes on to write of her memories of Abbotsford:

Our house in Oxford was not small, but to me Abbotsford seemed immense. I must have occasionally explored on my own because I can remember my discovery of a back staircase which led to mysterious parts of the house and to the basement, the territory of the servants. There was Annie, the cook, Fanny, the parlour maid, and Faulkner, the chauffeur. I remember them all as kindly figures... another member of the household was a big, ancient black cat called Tinker, often asleep on the red cushion. On one occasion our father accidentally sat on Tinker on the sofa. After this, relations between them became strained and I'm not sure if they ever recovered. My parents, Christopher and I, were driven by Faulkner to High Mass on Sunday morning at the Birmingham Oratory. The church seemed vast to me after our Parish Church at home and the High Mass was celebrated in grand style with a choir and orchestra high up in a gallery The car, a Wolsey (Priscilla inserted a question mark here) was solid and comfortable and had, I think, red upholstery. What I vividly remember was Faulkner spreading a rug over our knees on the back seat. My father commented on Aunt Mabel's great kindness in ensuring we got to Mass so comfortably, as he remembered the sad times in his childhood when his mother, Mabel, our grandmother, became a Catholic after our grandfather, Arthur's death. The Tolkiens, then, were Baptists and much unhappiness arose as a result of these differences.

Back in the house, I remember Christopher and I having interesting books, drawing and writing materials given to us and, as long as we were reasonably quiet, we were able to stay in the Morning Room at the front of the house, I think on the left hand side of the hall coming in through the front door. It was here, in the morning, that Aunt Mabel conducted her household business and I remember being totally absorbed in observing her speaking down a tube to Annie below in the kitchen. Much of this talk was about how many people would there be for lunch and how much fish to order from the fishmonger who called. Aunt Mabel always called Annie, 'dear' and also the fishmonger as Mr, 'dear', when she spoke to him direct.

Christopher and I had early supper, I think I had to go to bed by six o'clock and I slept in a little room at the front of the house. More than once, before going upstairs, I peeped into the dining room, I think opposite the Morning Room, and saw the table laid out formally for dinner with Fanny changed into her smart black and white uniform in which she would wait at table. The grownups changed for dinner but aunt Mabel always took the time to come and say goodnight. On one occasion Christopher said he was still hungry and, aunt Mabel, unknown to our mother, went down to the dining room and brought him up one of the sweets put ready. It may have been rather rich because I heard later that he had been sick in the night and I don't think our mother was terribly pleased about this.

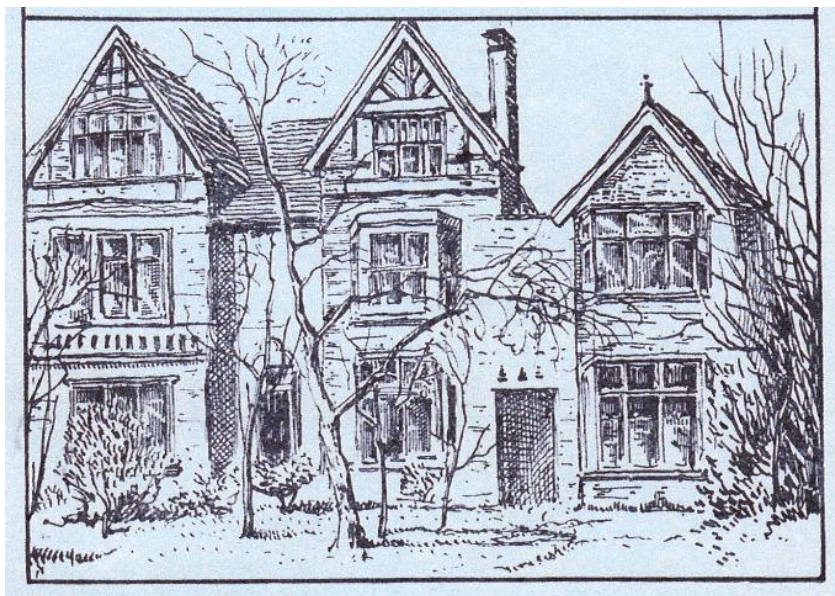


Figure 8: Wintersloe School on the Wake Green Road, Moseley

Ewart Mitton, attended Wintersloe, a private elementary school on the Wake Green Road, from 1905 to 1911.^{xxi} He was then admitted as a Foundation Scholar to King Edward's School (KES) in New Street, at the start of the new term in January 1911, the same year that his cousin J.R.R. Tolkien was leaving the school for Oxford. Ewart's schooldays emulated that of his cousin, a talented all-rounder. Ewart played for the 1st XV and was described as 'a good hooker but inclined to lose his head when gets the ball'.



Figure 9

(Top) Ewart, standing far right, in the 1st XV Rugby team at KES

(Above left) A photograph of Ewart from the KES archive

(Above right) Ewart, standing far right, in the 1st XV Rugby team at KES (see top photograph)

Ewart was also a member of the Debating Society and in January 1915 whilst debating the motion 'That there is no Romance in modern life,' he remarked that "Germany's great Romance was the Baghdad railway." In addition, he was musically talented, moving the audience with "his splendid recitation of Gunga Din," at the School Concert in December 1915. Academically he excelled, studying under the tutelage of the Headmaster himself, and winning the Governors' Prize for English Verse at Speech Day in July 1915.

Like his cousin, Ewart was a poet, and in September 1914 he wrote a poem called *Peace* and in the following year, March 1915, *The Dardanelles*, a poem about the action at Gallipoli in which several Old Edwardians were killed.^{xxii}

Peace

Far beyond the reeking battle,
Where all human factions cease,
Her bright eyes bedimmed with weeping
Stands the gentle form of Peace.
And she calls to toiling mortals
Children see ye grieve me sore,
Drive me from your happy homesteads
Stain your hands with lusts of War.
To the weeping maid they answer,
Lady, hear us when we plead,
For we turn from thee with sorrow
Turn to break a tyrant's greed.
And we vow that good shall follow
From our strife and warfare vile,
And thy reign shall be fairer
Though we leave thee for a while.

The Dardanelles

'Twixt two Continent's dominions
Hellespont's blue waters flow,
There, men say, an ancient empire
Perished centuries ago.

Thither Britain's fleet in silence
Gathered, there the cannons roar,
Chanting forth an Empire's death Knell
For the tyrant's reign is o'er

In his first term at the school, Ewart became a member of the Officer Training Corps (OTC). His general efficiency was described as 'good' and his musketry skills as '3rd Class'. Before he was discharged from the OTC in December 1915, Ewart had achieved the rank of Lance Corporal.^{xxiii}

On leaving school, Ewart immediately enlisted in the Royal Engineers Signal Section. In his application he described his occupation as a 'mechanical engineer'. Because of his previous enlistment in the OTC, Ewart was granted a temporary commission (on probation) a month later, on 10th February 1916.^{xxiv}

Just six months into his training, Ewart reported sick.^{xxv} He was diagnosed as having neurasthenia, a disease in which the patient experienced severe fatigue. It was believed to be more common among the educated than the unskilled, and the cause was thought to be environmental. It was brought on by what are today regarded as stress factors such as emotional upset, bad experiences and over work. The cure was said to be rest.

The Medical board reported that:

On the 1st June, while at Bletchley, he was instructed to report sick and was given a month's leave. He did not complain of any symptoms, but he is reported to be very excitable – to have lost his self-control. He is now much better.

On 29th July 1916, at 1st Southern General Hospital, a medical board reported Ewart as:

... still unfit for general service for an uncertain period, unfit for service at home for 6 weeks but fit for light duty at home.

A subsequent Medical Board review held at Bedford on 27th September reported Ewart 'as fit for general service' and, as a result, he was posted to the Signal Depot at Houghton Regis, Dunstable.

On 1st March 1917, Ewart embarked for France. From there he was transferred to Belgium.^{xxvi} It was while serving in the Ypres sector that Ewart was run over by a train on Christmas Eve. At the time of his death he was commanding No 10 Motor Airline Section, attached to 'B' Corps whose task was to string up and connect the wires between telegraph poles. The 'Motor' type would have used lorries, with a drum cable on the back, to string up the wires.^{xxvii}



Figure 10: In October 1917, at the Battle of Passchendaele, the drums of telephone cabling had to be carried over duck boards up to the front

A Court of Enquiry was held on 5th January 1918.

The driver of the train was also asked if he had seen anything. He replied that:

...he had seen nothing as he was too busy applying the brakes as it was a down grade...

When asked what speed the train was travelling at, the driver responded:

About 5 miles per hour

The fireman, Sapper W Bryant, No 1004, Engine No 3092, made a statement dated 24th December 1917 saying:

I beg to report that while proceeding from St Jean to Reigersburg North running tender first with coal truck in front and about 50 yards south of Zouave points, I observed a man coming towards us walking on the side of the lines. The whistle was sounded approaching Zouave points. I felt the engine bump and looking back I saw a man across the line. I proceeded back and saw an officer of the RE Signals lying across the line apparently dead. My engine left St Jean at 10.30.

The guard on the train was Corporal Golding. He observed that:

.... The tarpaulin over the tender made it difficult to see. On looking out there was a man coming towards us. He was on the line and turned off onto the footpath. On my second glance he was clear of the line. I did not remain leaning out of the cab after I had seen the line was clear.

Another witness, Lieutenant Tennison, added that:

... I took the necessary steps to evacuate the body to the 2nd Corps Main Dressing Station Mortuary. I examined the ground at the point where the accident happened. There were several pieces of mine earth protruding from the ground and the ground itself was very slippery..... A considerable quantity of coal had been taken, stolen by troops in the area. To minimise this, I instructed that the trucks of coal should be attached to any of my engines. This accounts for the truck being propelled by the train... no special lookout instructions were given to the driver and fireman, only ordinary instructions.... The driver and fireman were found to be steady and reliable in the two months I have known them.

The Lieutenant was asked if he could suggest the cause of the accident:

I understand from conversation with the Signal Officer that the deceased man was out looking for certain telegraph lines which cross the railway near the scene of the accident. I think he was startled by the approach of the train and in trying to step aside, slipped on the treacherous ground.

The Court of Enquiry concluded that every precaution had been taken by the men in charge of the engine and no blame attached to them. The deceased was on duty, which took him unavoidably close to the railway line. The actual cause of

his death was that he slipped on rough ground and fell under the engine. The view of the man in charge of the engine appears to have been much restricted by the fact that it was proceeding with a wagon of coal in front of it.^{xxviii}

Ewart was buried at Dunhallow Advanced Dressing Station (ADS) Cemetery, Ypres. His headstone reads 'A workman that needeth not be ashamed.'



Figure 11

(left) Headstone of Lt T Ewart Mitton (Right) Dunhallow ADS Cemetery

Ewart is also commemorated at the Baptist Church in Oxford Road (now the Cavalry Church of God in Christ) where the family worshipped; at St Mary's Church and St Agnes Church also in Moseley and at KES, Edgbaston. His name is also inscribed on the Roll of Honour at Birmingham's Hall of Memory



Figure 12

(Left and middle) Memorial in Moseley Baptist Church, now the Calvary Church of God in Christ, Oxford Road, Moseley.

(Right) WW1 memorial in St Mary's Church, Moseley

This tribute to Ewart was written by his sister Ethel Grace Mitton, on April 26th 1918, at Abbotsford, Moseley.^{xxix}

To Friends who loved Ewart.

There are few hearts to-day that are not wrung with silent pain and tender with sorrowing for days that will not come back, and for loved voices that will not be heard again on earth.

All that remains for many of us is to glean after the Reaper, we gather up and cherish all the reflections and memories of dear ones who have passed on to the "Father's House."

The following verses have been gathered together, not with any idea of laying claim to literary value, but that the thoughts of much loved boy may be kept in a permanent form.

No purer young soul has been laid upon the Alter of the Nation's Sacrifice. He was a happy English school boy, keen at work and at play at Wintersloe, Moseley, and afterwards at K.E.H.S, Birmingham; school days were interspersed with holidays among the mountains that he loved, or with school friends at Stratford-on-Avon, whither they went for the Plays and the river; then, as the prospect of Oxford was opening before him and the wider 'Varsity life, fell the bolt from the blue. War was declared in August 1914.

Boyhood ended for him as for many others in that hour. The last year of school life was foreshadowed with coming sacrifice, friends gradually one by one entered the Army until his own turn came and he was gazetted in February 10th, 1916. A year's training at home, nine months of active service in France, three weeks in Belgium in the neighbourhood of Ypres, and suddenly on Christmas Eve while engaged in erecting telegraph wires across a railway track, the accident happened that ended his short earthly life.

It was singularly consistent young life, unfolding as naturally as flowers do to the light; day by day his happy spirit expanded in the atmosphere of love he was surrounded by and without any apparent effort, his character deepened and matured as he approached manhood, responding always to the things that are true, pure and good report, it seemed sometimes to those who watched as life's discipline was hardly necessary to such a spirit—his childhood's faith grew with the years, death was to him but an accident in life, and this world, although it stood for so much happiness and possibly of service, yet was to him as he once expressed it "but the prelude to a glorious beginning."

He has joined his great friend Alfred Fawdry who fell at Bullecourt in May 1917 and many other school chums. For Alfred and Ewart there was no weary lying in Hospital, no dimming of vision in prison camps, no crippled bodies, but in the height of their strength, with unbroken ideals and childlike faith, they were called for instant service in the land that is surely not very far off.

"He always saw the straight thing and did it" said a school friend.

"Duty was a sacred word with Ewart, and his influence over the other boys made him a valuable asset at school," wrote his old friend and Master at Wintersloe.

"A type of Officer that is all too rare" wrote his C.O.

"He helped me to play the game" said one of his men.

"A boy of purest and holiest memories" wrote one who ministered to his spiritual life.

Most loving of sons, dearest of brothers, truest of friends, your voice will surely cheer us and your hands will succour us when we also arrive at the wicket gate that leads to the Celestial City.

E.G.M.

In 1921 Birmingham Library was presented with a collection of poetry donated by William John Cross of Rubery in memory of William John Bellingham, who was killed in Palestine in March 1918. William Cross had amassed a collection of 1,233 books and pamphlets of poetry from the First World War written by both soldiers and civilians, some well known and others less so. Many of the items were printed privately by families in memory of sons or brothers, including poetry composed by Ewart. This was a fitting tribute to Ewart, as his father and Ewart's uncle Athur Tolkien, had previously been members of the Birmingham Literary Association.^{xxx}

Ewart's elder brother Eric also served. He was also a member of the OTC at KES. On leaving school, he was attached in 1910 to the S 10, Southern Command Cable Company under Colonel J V Lister. Eric left for France on 11th November 1914 as part of the Signalling Section of the Royal Engineers. During his time there he was mentioned twice in despatches. He finished the war as a Captain and for a time took the rank of a temporary Major. Eric was a member of the Old Edwardians Football Club, Moseley Golf Club and the Priory Lawn Tennis Club. He married Grace Evelyn Hawkes on 26th August 1918 at the Parish Church in Edgbaston. Eric died on 22nd August 1963.^{xxxi}

Two years before Ewart was killed, his sister, Hilda, died, aged 32. Only two of Mabel's seven children survived past 1917. In 1919, Ethel married Robin Francis Fuller on 24th March. Mabel bought them 52 Oxford Road, Moseley as a wedding present, a brand new property.^{xxxii} In the autumn of 1921, Ethel gave birth to a son. He was given the name Thomas Ewart Mitton, after his uncle, but was known by the acronym Tem. Ethel died on 24th March 1938, aged fifty-one, a year after her mother, when Tem was only seventeen years old. Only Eric survived to live out his natural days. He died in 1963, aged seventy-five.^{xxxiii}

J.R.R. Tolkien's daughter, Priscilla wrote:

Our father was always devoted to Eric, and relations between the Mittons and ourselves remained warm after Aunt Mabel's death. I remember letters regularly being exchanged.

An article in the Birmingham News, in August 1932, stated: "The family had a high sense of social responsibility." The Mittons as a family had "played a prominent part in the public and religious life of the district for the past 50 or 60 years".

The name Ewart lives on in the Fuller family and is one of the middle names of Mabel's great-grandson, Patrick Fuller, and his youngest son.

Written and researched by Edwina Rees, with thanks to Alison Wheatley, archivist at King Edward's School, Edgbaston and Patrick Ewart Mitton Fuller, great-grandson of Mabel Mitton (née Tolkien)

Moseley Society History Group

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Endnotes

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- i Lissiman family tree, Ancestry
England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975
 - ii Extracted Church of England Parish Records for Shropshire 1538-1812
 - iii Hall Genealogy Website: Old Occupations
<http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/w.html>
 - iv England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970
 - v Freebodies, Dudley
<https://www.british-genealogy.com/threads/77846-Freebodies-St-Johns-Road-Kates-Hill-Dudley?s=4d813e0d4ad8eab51f4a46d39f471b79>
 - vi England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1557-1970
 - vii England Select Marriages 1538-1973. The spelling of the name must be 'Gittins' not 'Gittings' as Sarah's mother's name is written as 'Gittins' in the marriage records for Thomas Knowles.
Birmingham Gazette and Express, 13th June 1905
 - viii Tem Fuller family tree, Ancestry

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- ix 1851 census
- x *Birmingham Journal*, 13th November 1852
Birmingham Daily Post, 20th November 1858
- xi *London Gazette*, 6th October 1853, Issue 21484, page 2748
- xii *Birmingham Journal*, 6th May 1854
- xiii England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007
- xiv *Birmingham Gazette and Express*, 13th June 1905
- xv Grace's Guide: Thomas Evans Mitton
https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Thomas_Evans_Mitton
Grace's Guide: Hunt and Mitton
https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Hunt_and_Mitton
Flowstream: The history of Hunt and Mitton
<http://www.flowstream.co.uk/hunt-and-mitton-valve-history/>
1911 census
- xvi Birth Certificate
- xvii *Birmingham Post*, 1st August 2014
- xviii Extracts from letters written by Priscilla, daughter of J.R.R. Tolkien with thanks to Patrick Fuller, great-grandson of Mabel Mitton (née Tolkien)
- xix From Patrick Fuller, great-grandson of Mabel Mitton (née Tolkien)
- xx Tenniquoits, also called Tennikoit or ring tennis, is a game played with a minimum of two people (singles) or a maximum of four people (doubles). The object of the game is to pass the rubber ring (called the tenniquoit) back and forth across the net, trying to make the other team fail to catch it to score a point.
- xxi *The Wintersloe Magazine*, Issue LXI, page 16. Moseley Society History Group
- xxii Submitted to the KES archive by Maggie Burns, Birmingham Archives and Heritage
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- xxix From the KES archive with thanks to Alison Wheatley, archivist
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